

The Gift of Prophecy and God's Remnant Church



Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Revelation 12; 14:1–12.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Identify examples of the term *remnant* as used in the Bible.
- ▶ Discuss the characteristics of the

remnant people in Revelation.

- ▶ Affirm his/her choice to be a part of God's remnant people.

Preparing to Lead

God has always had His representatives at every stage of history. They were never a majority, but they were all part of the continuous fabric of salvation. They were all washed in the blood of the Lamb. Each was committed to God and His Word and were willing to stand up

against society if necessary. God's end-time people are known as the remnant—the material left at the end of a bolt of fabric. Like all God's people before them, they are saved by grace. They too put God first and obey His commands. They earnestly seek to reflect His image.

Getting Started

A. Ask the entire group to stand. Then ask people to sit down if they have: (1) a last name that starts with a vowel; (2) a first name that starts with a consonant; (3) more than six letters in their first name; (4) fewer than five letters in their last name; (4) fewer than five letters in their last name; (5) a last name that contains an *L* or an *N*.

Those left standing are a “remnant.” They're part of the same group as those

who sat down, but they are the ones who remain.

B. Divide your class into groups of three. In each group, one person should have a Bible (a quarterly will also be helpful), one a pencil or pen, and one a copy of the reproducible puzzle (p. 34). Give the groups no more than four or five minutes to work on the puzzle before going over the solutions together.

Materials

whiteboard or flipchart and markers; fabric and pinking shears; string or rope; pens or pencils; concordances; Bibles

Delving Into the Word

A. Divide the class into small groups. Have each group read one of the following passages and discuss the questions below in light of their specific passage:

- Genesis 45:1–9 (NIV and NASB, among others, use the word *remnant* here);
- 2 Kings 18:17–19:7 (see 19:4);

- Ezra 9:1–9; • Isaiah 10:20–25.

The questions are: •What happened to create this remnant? •What is stated or implied about those who are part of the remnant described in this passage? •How was the remnant in this passage preserved? •How is the remnant in this pas-

sage similar to (or different from) the one in Revelation? • What principle(s) can we draw from this passage that might apply to the remnant of Revelation?

B. Using a concordance, have the group list words that are often found in close proximity to *remnant* throughout the Bible. Write these words on a whiteboard or flipchart, and develop a working defini-

tion of *remnant*.

Ask for volunteers to read 1 Kings 19:1–18 and Romans 11:1–6. Then discuss the following questions: • Why did Elijah think that he was the only one left? • What did Paul mean when he described a “remnant chosen by grace” (NIV)? • How do these passages relate to the description of the remnant in Revelation?

Discussing the Ideas

1. How is the remnant in Revelation different from God’s people at any other point in history?

2. Is being a part of the remnant church synonymous with being a Seventh-day Adventist? Why, or why not?

3. Which characteristic of the remnant do you think is the most important, and why?

4. Is it possible to honestly believe that you are committed to God and following

His will and not be part of the remnant? Why, or why not?

5. Why are those who keep God’s commandments a remnant?

6. Each of the women in Revelation 12 and 17 represents a church. What distinguishes the “children” of one from the “children” of the other?

7. What does it mean in your life to overcome “[Satan] by the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 12:11, NIV)?

Closing the Activity

Ahead of time, cut bookmark-sized strips from one piece of fabric (or paper) using pinking shears or some other fancy-cut scissors. (If your group is small, you may be able to do this in class.) Display the original “source” piece, and give each person in the group one of the “remnants.” Invite them to place it in their Bibles at Revelation 12 as a reminder that they can choose to be a part of the last-day remnant of God’s people.

Also ahead of time, prepare a length of rope or string. Make it as long as possible, given the space where your class

meets. (If your room is small, it could go around the perimeter several times.) Affix small pieces of paper along the rope with the names of some of God’s heroes: Enoch, Abraham, Miriam, David, Peter, Martha, Hannah, Martin Luther, Ellen White, Dwight Moody, etc.

Place them in chronological order. Remind the group that God’s remnant church comes at the end of a long line of believers. Have one person grasp the end of the rope, and the others join hands to continue the chain. Offer closing prayer before disconnecting.

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